

The Black Mirror News

Reflections

50¢

or

FREE AT OUR ADVERTISERS

VOL. 6, NO. 8 • SEPTEMBER 2001

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THIS ISSUE

AUDREY WEST'S

RETIREMENT
PARTY
PHOTOS

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Be sure to check
out the great
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THE
SHADOW...
spotlighting a
'true' story

– see page 22



PROFILING JILL SCOTT – and her soulful sounds

(see pages 16 & 17)

To love my people shouldn't imply I hate others...

(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

NEW JERSEY EDITION

Address all Editorial and Advertising Correspondence to:

THE BLACK MIRROR NEWS

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PHOTOS AND THINGS...

Congratulations to the new Fire Chief!

The City of Newark recently held a swearing-ceremony at the City Hall Rotunda for **Lowell Jones**. Upon taking the oath of office, Jones became Newark's 30th Fire Chief, succeeding retired Capt. Edward Dunham



Pictured from left to right: Fire Director Stanley Kossup, new Fire Chief Lowell Jones, Porter Abernathy (Jones' uncle), Newark Business Administrator Harold Lucas, and Newark City Clerk Robert Marasco.

Keeping up appearances...



ALFRED BUNDY, host of Cable television's *Meet the Leaders*, interviews Essex County Executive James Treffinger. *Meet the Leaders* is telecast weekly on Cable television's Channel 3 on Sunday's at 12:30 pm. Mr. Bundy is an award-winning television producer and public relations consultant.

222
630
487
589

Polly Ticks...Polly Ticks...Polly Ticks...Polly Ticks...Polly Ticks...Polly Ticks...Polly Ticks...

Good Looking Out!

FOR MOST OF US WHO LIVE IN THE INNER CITIES THE COUNTY PARK SYSTEM IS OUR "JERSEY - SHORE". MANY OF US DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY, FINANCIAL OR OTHERWISE, TO TAKE OUR FAMILY OF THREE OR FOUR CHILDREN TO THE "SHORE" FOR THE WEEKEND OR FOR THE DAY. THE LOCAL PARK IS "IT" FOR US. ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDER PRESIDENT JOSEPH DiVINCENZO UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PARK SYSTEM TO OUR COMMUNITY AND IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT THE BLACK MIRROR NEWS PRINTS A LETTER FROM MR. DiVINCENZO TO CONCERNED ESSEX COUNTY RESIDENTS:

Re: Ongoing Efforts to Improve the Essex County Park System.

Dear Concerned Essex County Resident:

Now that we've reached the mid-point of the summer the kids are out of school, and all of our attentions are focused on recreation, more so than at any other time of the year, I thought you'd like to know what your county government has been doing to improve conditions in the Essex County Park System. Since the May 30, conclusion of my whirlwind, 8-week-long tour of the zoo, 19 parks, 3 reservations, and 3 golf courses of our park system, our efforts have been concentrated in three areas: improving park maintenance; lobbying to increase State funding; and improving park security. In each area, I'm happy to report that we've made significant strides.

• Improving Park Maintenance:

This year, 55 additional workers were added to our park maintenance staff. Thanks to the beefed-up workforce, we've been able to activate 9 park-specific work crews that concentrate their efforts, daily, on just one or two parks (three parks, for a few crews). This new work pattern has greatly enhanced the timeliness of clean-ups and repairs, and it's our hope that you've noticed those improvements first-hand.

• Lobbying for Increased State Funding:

In order to lighten the property tax burden on Essex County residents, it is essential that the County of Essex receive its fair share of grants, matching grants, and loans from the State of New Jersey. On May 15th, however, when the Garden State Preservation Trust announced its 2001 distribution of \$98 million, the bias of the legislation's funding formulas in favor of rural areas, at the expense of the urban and suburban areas of the state like Essex, was made abundantly clear.

Of the \$98 million, a whopping \$80 million was earmarked for farmland preservation and the purchase of farmland development easements (which leave those lands in the possession of the landowners). Only \$10 million was designated for the "development of existing open space (existing parks) in urban and suburban areas across the state, including only one \$500,000 grant to the County of Essex. Compounding the problem of the unfair formulas, which would permit upwards of \$20 million to be spent on existing parks, we learned that Governor Whitman had made it her policy to place a "cap" of only \$10 million on the funds that may be used for that purpose (a policy continued this year under Acting Governor DiFrancesco). Historically, Essex County, the state's second most-populous county, which comprises approximately 10% of New Jersey's population, has received only 0.8% of the open space funds expended. Clearly, that's not fair.

Immediately following that announcement, I wrote to Acting Governor DiFrancesco to criticize the unfair funding formulas, and to ask his help (as Senate President) in the effort I'm mounting to encourage the State Legislature to amend the Garden State Preservation Trust Act. My letter prompted a Thursday, July 12th, meeting I had with Connie Hughes, then-Chief of Management and Policy in the Governor's Office. The meeting was constructive and positive, and Ms. Hughes promised to pursue our concerns with the Governor. I intend to contact his office again in the near future to follow-up with Ms. Hughes's successor (she was elected President of the Board of Public Utilities last Friday).

To bring additional attention to this problem, I've also actively encouraged the scrutiny of the media, which has resulted in television coverage on News12 New Jersey, and several supportive newspaper editorials.

• Improving Security:

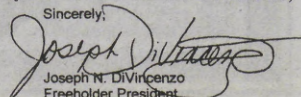
At each of the stops, park tour attendees commented on the inadequate police presence that encourages the flaunting of park usage rules, and facilitates criminal activity. They also pointed-out that the security problem is further exacerbated by poor lighting (burned-out bulbs, insufficient wattage, broken fixtures, too few light stanchions, etc.), which is the maintenance responsibility of PSE&G.

To address the matter of a stronger police presence, Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura and I hosted a Essex County Parks "Security Summit" at the **Essex County Police Academy** (250 Grove Avenue, Cedar Grove). The mayors and police chiefs/directors from each of Essex County's 22 municipalities were invited to attend this roundtable discussion, and I strongly encouraged them to join us in sharing their experiences and suggestions. Our goal was to formulate a strategy of enhanced coordination between the Essex County Police and the local municipal police departments that will make our parks safe for everyone to enjoy.

I have also met with PSE&G representatives who have committed themselves to conduct a thorough audit of the lighting needs in each of our parks, and to an aggressive upgrade and maintenance regimen.

Our park system, the nation's oldest, is not yet where we want it to be, but I sincerely believe that we are on the right track to restoring it to its former glory. We are already beginning to see marked improvements, and I want you to know that I will continue to push forward. You can also be sure that I will continue to keep you informed of our efforts on your behalf. In the meantime, enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,


Joseph N. DiVincenzo
Freeholder President

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See Page 5, For Used Car
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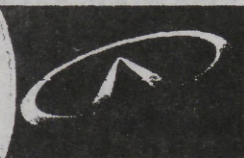
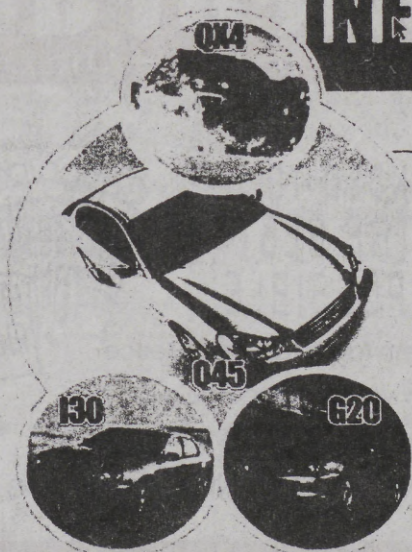
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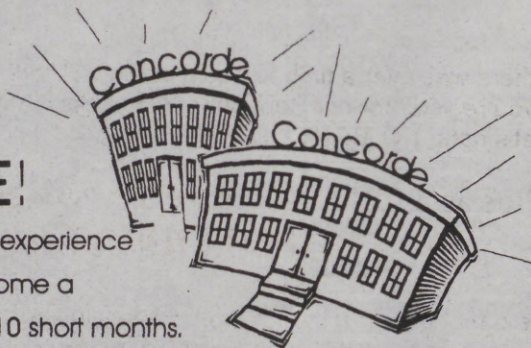
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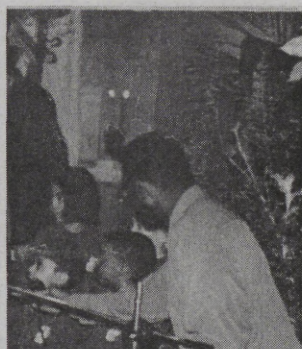
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If your property is currently listed with a broker, disregard this offer.



AUDREY H. WEST'S RETIREMENT PARTY- Saw the likes of Congressman Donald Payne; NJ State Assemblyman, William Payne; Newark Mayor Sharpe James; East Orange Mayor Robert Bowser; Newark Municipal Council member, Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins; Co. of Essex Freeholder, Blonnie Watson; Mrs. Joyce Carrington-Kouassi, Dept. of Health & Human Services, Regional Office; Region II Head Start Assoc. president, Beryl Clark; NJ Head Start Directors Assoc, president, Veronica Ray; NJ Head Start Assoc, executive director, Sarah Handsford, East Orange Child Development; Newark Preschool Council, Inc. Board of Directors/Policy Council, Alan Simms, Board President; Charla Moore, Policy Council Chairperson; Josephine Harris gave a Tribute speech; and Yvonne Morris-Phipps presented the Retirement Gift.





- MORE PHOTOS ON PAGES 12 & 13



Some of the
many attending...

Mr & Mrs Steve Adubato
Christine Adams
Regina Adams
Louise Alexander
Roberta Afford
Sharonda Allah
Taffia Allah
Sharlynn Allah Muhammad
Peace Anasocha
Marcene Anderson
Abbasiah Andrew
Donnette Bailey Stewart
Kathy Baker
Raymond Baker
Ada Banks
Marlynn Bartlett
Veronica Bikoobsky
Steve Block
Barbara Blue
Mr & Mrs Donald Bell
Mr & Mrs Miles Berger
Borok Newark
Councilwoman Gail Chasefield-Jenkins
Council Pres. Donald Bradley
Joseph Bradley
Carolyn Brown
Dwight Brown
Marcia Brown
Mr & Mrs. Ray Brown Sr.
Evelyn Brumington
Kevin Burrey
Joseph Byrd
Mary Caprio
Linda Cavanaugh
Caitlin
Jerry Chambers
Charles
Mr & Mrs. James Churchman
Louis Prosser
Veronica Gilbert of City Nat'l
Sandra Clark
Beryl Clark
Marlene Edgar
Shawn Edmondson
Mike Ellis
Al Faiella
Bara Federoff
Elise Feldman
Jean Fitzgerald
Velda Font Morris
Velda Forman
Clayd Frank
Mary Gallagher
Galeway Maternal
Gloria Hemmings
Mr & Mrs. Giannomasi
Tom Gihlin
Daniel Gibson
Annie Gillies
Wanda Glynn
Pamela Goldstein
Leonard Coleman
Francisco Cooper
Oliver Crawford
Eleanor Crutchfield
Yvonne Davis
Barbara Decker
Andy Della Merced
Barbara Delaney
Lance Diggs
Joseph DiVincenzo
Thelma Doby
Rebecca Doggett
Don Bell
Mildred Dowdy
Karen Drakford
William Dudley
Henry Dyson
Kathia Earl
Sarah Handford
Howard LaJool
Gerry Comer
Rev. Mrs. Levin West
Hubert Graham
Carole Graves
Betty Grayson
Julius Williams
Murray Greene
Louis Greenleaf
Ann Crumby
Mr & Mrs. George Guiguis
Eunice Harrison
Josephine Harrison
Nathaniel Harrison
Geraldine Hawkins
John Hess
Mary Hewyard
Connie Hood
Ora Welch, Hoopes, Inc.
Nancy Horton
Virginia Shaw
Katie Shelton
Jacqueline Shervington
Rise Silver
Donella Smith
Jonnie Smith
Milard Smith
Sylvia Smith
Jacquelyn Spencer
Rev & Mrs Howard Grant, St. Luke AME

*Audrey West's Retirement Gala
was held in the Garden at the Newark Museum...*

Ariene Steinhacher
 Shephard
 Shonda Stone
 Naomi Tunstall
 Delores Tyson
 United Villaburg
 United Comm
 Amertbia Waddy
 Saliya Wadud
 Michael Pain
 Pasca
 Anita Parker
 Parlavescchio
 James Parrillo
 Eugene Puzella
 C. Patel
 Wanda Payne
 Nancy Payne
 Mary Potts
 Pellegrino
 Mr./Mrs. Theodore Picokey
 Robert
 Priscilla Roberts
 Mr./Mrs. David Rodriguez
 Joyce Rockwood
 Ramona Santiago
 Tabrina Savage
 Mr./Mrs. Brian Scantabury
 Lorde Medina
 Henry Metz
 Bill Mikasall
 Marion Miller
 Sheelvali Misra
 Steven Moore
 Cordell Wyenne Morris Phipps
 Madeline Mose
 Johnnie Myers
 Natural Learning
 Delores Nebel Simmon
 Sharon Giles-Alexander (New Day)
 New Eden
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 Newark Teachers Assoc.
 Newark Tenants Assoc.
 Nicolia
 Mariam Oliver
 Jeannette Page Hawkins
 Zelia Jones
 Mrs. Tommy Joyner
 La Casa De Don Pedro
 Evelyn Lucille
 Lewis
 Bernice Parrish & JJ (from Local 617)
 Larry Lushart
 Maria Logo
 John Lynch
 Rosemary Mack
 Rosco Malanga
 Bernice Marshall
 Kathleen Marzola
 Juanita Marsh
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 Evelyn Matthews
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 Sima Jolin
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 Helen Jones
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 Mary Walker
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 Shirley Ward
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 Jolly Ann Waters
 Kenneth West
 Lameisha West Statin
 Dennis Westbrook
 Janet White
 Mary Whit
 Neil Williams
 Ida Williams
 James Williams
 Minnie Williams
 Ruth Williams
 Mary E. Willis
 Dorothy Wilson
 Harold Wood
 Leloyne Woodson
 Barbara Woolen
 Edward Wright
 Mr./Mrs. Alan Zakind
 Cecilia Zakind



Audrey H. West

As Executive Director of the Newark Preschool Council, Ms. West led an agency that is on the cutting edge of the national movement to develop family advocacy and sound educational beginnings for our children as they begin their successful journeys toward good citizenship.

She was the first African American to serve in the positions of Director of the Newark Division of Public Welfare ('68-'78), Deputy Director and Director of the NJ State Division of Public Welfare in the Dept. of Health and Human Services ('78-'88) and she was also Special Assistant of the Commissioner in the New Jersey State Dept. of Personnel ('88-'99)



Wow! Good News: **Hilton Davis** is looking better and coming around (thanks to your prayers and good wishes)... Many of our young folks should visit the library and pick up information about **Babs Gonzales** (a.k.a. Babs Brown), he was a 'Rap' star or beyond – ask **Wali Kareem**... **Laura Baker** did a great job for the **Audrey West Retirement Party** and she is so sincere about the Day Care Center... It's almost time for the **Chris Gatling Annual Pool Party** in Warren, NJ. Always by invitation. only. (No invite – no admittance!)... **Carletta Mitchell** in California to see her sister **Joyce Sanchez** and nieces and nephews... Sorry to hear of the passing of **Arthur Nunnally's mom**. We all send our sincere condolences... Where is singer **Barbara Sharpe**?... **Herman Amis** (former WNJR disc jockey, who was key amongst the rock 'n roll era) looking great at the South Ward's **Bernice Bass Plaza** dedication in her name... Saxophonist **Ike Quebec's** birthday was August 17th in Newark, NJ. Ike has long passed, and noone remembers how great he was on the tenor sax and paying the piano with **Ernie**

Ransome... Juanita Thompson: 'Happy Birthday' and we all hope you have a healthy happy baby – smiles... the **Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce of Essex County Basketball League's annual Summer Picnic at Tomahawk Lake** was great and enlighting. **Mike Rodriguez**, is a founder and supporter... **Ms. Najah Ya Sin** back from European tour of Paris, France, Sweden and Italy, and looking great, smiles... **'Tonto' Charles Gibson** down in the Caribbean, somewhere!! Oh yeah!... **Della Moses Walker** is still one of the best and biggest promoters of real estate, check her out on page 18... The leading carpenters are in total support of **Jim McGreevey** for governor of New Jersey – what about you?

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Mother of Arthur Nunnally, Assist. Administrative Analyst, Personnel Department Newark Housing Authority.

JACQUELINE GERALDINE LAWRENCE

She was a Program Development Specialist for the division of Medical Assistance and Health Services for the state of New Jersey, for 20 years. Prior to her employment with the State, she held various positions within the City of Newark.

Newark Honors radio celebrity with tribute, street renaming



BASS

The late Bernice Bass - Newark's legendary no-nonsense, quick-tongued radio personality - was honored recently.

A block of Keer Avenue, where Bass lived until her death in January, was renamed Bernice Bass Plaza.

More than 50 people attended the unveiling of the new sign that followed a tribute with song and speeches from some of the city's well-known gospel greats, such as Carrie Smith and Robert Banks and politicians, including Mayor Sharpe James.

The street is located at Keer Avenue and Parkview Terrace.

Bernice Bass was a columnist with the *After Hour News* and was best known for her work as the longtime host of "News and Views," a music and talk program on WNJR radio.

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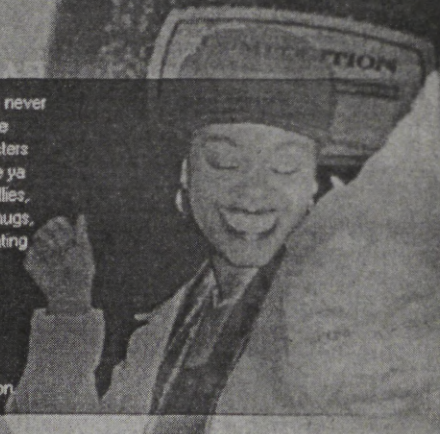
WHO IS JILL SCOTT?

My name is Jill Scott. Born and raised in North Philadelphia. Yeah it's a ghetto but I never felt poor, never disadvantaged or lesser than. It is my belief that I am my own infinite plethora of wealth. My effort has been to be a living example to my brothers and sisters and to the world that it is where your from and how you choose to see it. It is where ya went and how ya got there and it is definitely where ya at. Block parties, school bullies, cute boys, double dutch, ass whoppins, collard greens, Kool-aid, Diars, hunger, hugs, holdin' on, lettin' go. All that and more make me weak, make me strong. I'm celebrating this here human thing, this here woman thing, this here blood thing. All of it.

My name is Jill Scott and I write (well), I act (well) and I sing with everything I got.

Jill Scott

Peace, love + Positive progression.



Okay, so she's a poet who has a record out. Fine, I said the "P" word. Usually when poets make records, they suck like NAFTA; but this is not the case here. In fact, Who Is Jill Scott? was on my top ten of 2001 list with a big exclamation point. Why? Well, I think there are three moments on this album that makes it really great. I'm going to try to describe them so well that if you don't have the album you will want to go out and buy the damned thing.

Moment #1: In the absolutely tough "Gettin' in the Way," Ms. Jill is reading some ho the riot act for trying to sniff all up to her man. After dismissing this hooch and warning her about some of the bad things that are going to happen to her ("I'm 'bout to take my earrings off/Get me some Vaseline" really rings true to anyone who's ever seen women throw down), the following bridge makes the whole song: "I'm 'bout to go off in your face girl/You betta chill/You betta back down/ Before you get smacked down/You betta chill." This is not chanted in any sort of gangsta pose, or really with any bitterness – it's just fair warning to the enemy that she's gonna catch an eye jammy or seven. Matter of fact, facts of life, life goes on.

Moment #2: "A Long Walk" is one of the sexiest songs to be released this year, because it's all about the meeting of true

dangerous and ruffneck around the edges, but he's a good guy and hot as a damn boiler room, so she starts testing him out on what they might do on a date, long walk around the park, etc. Cute premise. But again, the bridge sends the track into another stratosphere, so I'll quote from her lyrical flow, delivered like a melodic rap r&b diva: "Or maybe we can see a movie or maybe we can see a play on Saturday or maybe we can roll a tree and feel the breeze and listen to a symphony or maybe chill and just be..." I mean, come on, the girl's got flow, and did I mention her voice is all tight and interesting?

Moment #3: The actual hidden track (as opposed to the hidden track they tell you about) is a hard-edged remix of a song already featured on the album, "Love Rain." In its original incarnation, it's kind of a self-pitying spoken-word piece on the following theme: "Everything was fine until I told him I loved him, which freaked him out and now nothing's the same, therefore guys are dogs." A noble theme, and all-too-believable. But then, as the second half of track 44, "Love Rain" turns into more of a song. Suddenly the song's all dance-friendly with bigger beats and more attitude, and Mos Def stops by to drop a brief rhyme from the guy's point of view, with the general theme "Hey, I was into you too until you went and made it all

complicated, so can we go back to that thing we used to have?" A noble theme, and all-too-believable. Complexity, darlings – she's got depth and perspective, as well as buddies like Mos Def dropping by.

These three moments are more than enough to make up for the occasional yeesh moments (spoken word that goes nowhere, too many samey beats from the same production crew, very slow tempos). They're more

than enough for me to jump on the Jill Scott bandwagon. And they're more

than enough reason that you will want to buy this CD now before it's a collectors' item.

If you like Jill Scott, check out: The Roots The Roots Come Alive; The Roots Things Fall Apart DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince And In This Corner... D'Angelo Voodoo Erykah Badu Baduizm Fiona Apple When the Pawn... Common Like Water for Chocolate Angie Stone Black Diamond

– Reviewed by Matt Cibula

Who is Jill Scott, you ask? Other than being a stunning new hip-hop artist from North Philadelphia, Jill was also nominated for Best New Artist at the 2001 Grammys. Scott's sultry, hip-hop grooves are downright tasty, reminiscent of a female version of Maxwell. Her vocals are passionate and palpable, calling on a very poetic lyrical repertoire and poured over a tasteful jazz-influenced, sexed-up musical bed.

Luckily for us, Scott avoids common pitfalls of the hip-hop genre, such as repeating "yo, yo, yo" in each and every song like Lauryn Hill of The Fugees. The musical accompaniment of the album Who is Jill

Scott? is very jazzy, which complements the poetic lyrical verses. It is clear that Scott, while not as distinctive in vocal style as fellow rising star Macy Gray, is in fact a more talented singer technically. The songs on Who is Jill Scott? are wellcrafted compositions that fit well together on the record. Each tune has real musical elements and instruments that make these R&B tracks sound far less cookie cutter and give the record much more staying power.

"Do You Remember" could become a new favorite jam for auditioning your high-performance audio system. Scott's voice is beautifully recorded, delicately dancing on top of a deeply strolling bassline. The high hat clicks are crystal clear and accentuate the loving lyrics. "Love Rain" is the most Fugees-sounding tune of the record. Scott carries off a rap vocal style better than the aforementioned hip-hop super group, but Who is Jill Scott? goes to even higher musical territory than this tune does, although "Love Rain" might be the most friendly tune for radio airplay. "One is The Magic Number" features mariachi-like horns and an ethereal piano line, paired with a great hook to make a song of personal strength with enough musical appeal for you to love the record.

Jill Scott deserves major props for putting out a sexy, sultry record of love, politics and Philly style that stays positive and is musically compelling. Who is Jill Scott? never sounds prepackaged and rarely gets stale. Even if you don't like rap and can't think of a hip-hop record that you couldn't live without, you should consider Who is Jill Scott? for your collection. The audio quality and production values are very high in a genre not known for excellence. The performance is feel-good and pushes the hip-hop category to new levels.

Reviewed by Jerry Del Colliano -

EDITOR'S NOTE: We came across the above reviews on the internet – hope you enjoyed them!

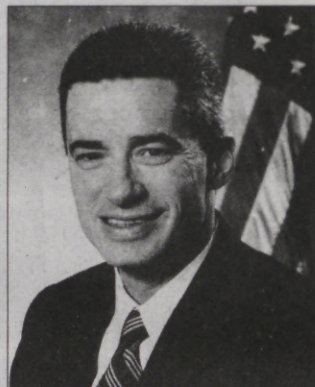
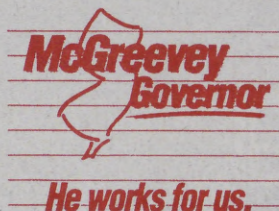


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FRI-SUN., SEPTEMBER 21-23- The International Black Women's Congress non-profit, community-based organization headquartered in Norfolk, VA and founded by Dr. La Francis Rodgers-Rose, will present their 17th annual conference Black Women and Breast Cancer: A 'Wholistic' Perspective in September in Cleveland, Ohio. The conference will be held at Sheraton Cleveland Centre Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio.

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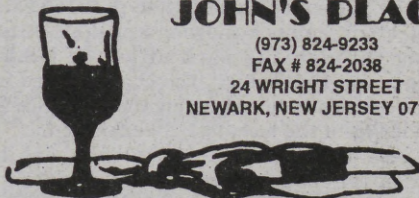
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SHADOW KNOWS...

Hey, folks, hang onto your hat 'cause *The Shadow's* got a 'good one' for you! **AND, IT'S ALL TRUE, TOO!**

Last month Newark artist Roy Crosse, strung 15 miniature chairs among the treetops in Military Park to symbolize the lack of attractive public spaces where city residents can go to escape their cramped apartments.

He envisioned the \$10,000 project, entitled "**no seat in the Park**," as a pioneering exhibit that would pave the way for future public art projects in the city he has called home for the past 15 years.

But along came a mother and her children walking through the park after the exhibit's opening... you guessed it... the chairs looked more like a free furniture set (even though they were suspended from the treetops!) for their home.

In less than an hour after the exhibit's dedication ceremony, police officers patrolling the park caught a family of five making off with some of the chairs.

While understandably upset at the turn of events, Cross said, "the public here is not accustomed to using public space in this way, "they

see something attractive and they think they can take it away. They thought they were free."

Not to be discouraged, Crosse, who developed carpal tunnel syndrome building the chairs, made of steel wire, aluminum rods and knitting yarn, repaired the damaged chairs, and the next morning hung them again.

"It's important to get them back up as soon as possible," he said, insisting that "no seat in the Park" will remain intact until its scheduled end on September 26. "It's a little like graffiti. The minute they put it on, you have to take it off. It keeps going until someone gives up, and I'm not going to be the one to give up."

P.S. - No charges were filed against the family, police said.

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